

Testimony of

Diane Carpenter

Bridgeport Educator

Before the

Education Committee

March 15, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

Why are older teachers who worked through Covid, past their normal retirement age not receiving any of the benefits? I continued to work due the shortage of Special Education Teachers in my district as well as the state only to be told I need to work another 2 years to receive the Covid Benefit Enhancement.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

